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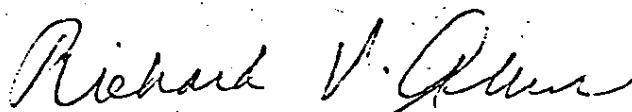
November 23, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT
THE SECRETARY OF STATE
THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
THE COUNSELLOR TO THE PRESIDENT
THE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE ✓
THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE TO THE
UNITED NATIONS
THE CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE PRESIDENT
THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE PRESIDENT
THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
THE DIRECTOR, ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT
AGENCY

SUBJECT: Space Transportation System

The President has approved the issuance of the attached
National Security Decision Directive on the Space Trans-
portation System.

FOR THE PRESIDENT:



Richard V. Allen
Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs

Attachment

cc: Director, Office of Science
and Technology Policy
Administrator, National
Aeronautics and Space
Administration

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Review on Nov 20, 1985

L-117
NSDD # 8

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November 13, 1981

NATIONAL SECURITY DECISION
DIRECTIVE NUMBER 8

SPACE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Recognizing the importance of space programs in the broad commercial, civil, and national security needs, the United States is committed to a vigorous effort that will ensure leadership in these areas. The Space Transportation System (STS) is a vital element in fulfilling these needs. (U)

This decision establishes national policy that shall guide the activities related to the STS. The United States will continue to develop the STS through the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in cooperation with the Department of Defense to service all authorized space users. The STS will be the primary space launch system for both United States military and civil government missions. The transition to the Shuttle should occur as expeditiously as practical. (U)

The STS is a national program requiring sustained commitments by all departments and agencies. NASA will assure the Shuttle's utility to the civil government and non-government users. In coordination with NASA, the Department of Defense will assure the Shuttle's utility to defense and integrate national security missions into the Shuttle system. Launch priority will be provided to national security missions, and such missions may use the Shuttle orbiters as dedicated mission vehicles. Major changes to STS program capabilities will require my approval. (C)

Ronald Reagan

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Review on Nov 13, 1985

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